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USAEC, WASHINGTON, D.C.

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

PTB 212245Z

ACTION TO: CJTF-7 000186
 INFO TO: CINCPAC 000187
 HDQTRS USAF ATTN AFOAT

JUL 21 1958

FOLLOWING IS TOKYO DTG 211855Z:

"MARITIME SAFETY BOARD HAS RECEIVED INITIAL REPORTS FROM RABAU
 ON CREWS OF TWO SHIPS CAUGHT IN FALLOUT NEAR TRUK ABOUT 100
 MILES OUTSIDE DANGER ZONE. ONLY ONE SHIP, TAKUYO MARU, REPORTS
 HIGH RADIATION READING AUSTRALIAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
 IN RABAU TODAY CHECKING BLOOD COUNTS OF BOTH CREWS. SHIPS HAVE
 REPORTED WHITE BLOOD COUNTS AS OF JULY 18 OF TEN CREW MEMBERS ON
 TAKUYO MARU BETWEEN 2,000 AND 4,000, ALMOST ALL THESE COUNTS FELL
 30-40 PERCENT FROM JULY 15 READING TAKEN ON SHIP. SEVEN OTHER
 CREW MEMBERS ON TAKUYO MARU BETWEEN 4,000 AND 4,900.
 "AFTER CONFERENCE OF JAPANESE MARITIME AUTHORITIES WITH JAPANESE
 MEDICAL AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES, MARITIME SAFETY BOARD HAS BEEN
 ADVISED TO FLY AT MINIMUM 10 AND AT MOST 51 TOTAL CREW MEMBERS
 BACK TO JAPAN FOR TREATMENT. MARITIME SAFETY BOARD HAS INFORMALLY
 REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR FLIGHTS. MSB HAS ALSO
 REQUESTED ADVICE ON METHODS OF DECONTAMINATION FOR TAKUYO MARU.
 THEIR EFFORTS DECONTAMINATE SHIP HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

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"TAKUYO MARU HAS WOOD DECK AND CANVASS AWNINGS BOTH OF WHICH CREW UNABLE TO DECONTAMINATE. TAKUYO MARU REPORTS FOLLOWING ERRATIC SCINTILLATION COUNTER READINGS ON DECK; JULY 15 20,000; JULY 18 15,000.

"USB MAKING EFFORT TO MINIMIZE PUBLICITY ON WHITE BLOOD COUNT FALL OF CREW MEMBERS IN ORDER NOT ALARM JAPANESE PUBLIC AND FISHERMEN NOW IN PACIFIC. DOUBTFUL THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE BE SUCCESSFUL SINCE PAPERS THIS MORNING ALREADY CARRYING SOME REPORTS.

"EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EVERY EFFORT BE MADE ASSIST JAPAN IN THIS MATTER; SUGGEST AS INITIAL STEP MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND EXPERTS ON DECONTAMINATION BE FLOWN FROM ENIWETOK AT ONCE REPEAT AT ONCE TO RABAU TO INVESTIGATE.

"STATUS OF CREW MEMBERS AND SHIPS. IF FOLLOWING THEIR REPORT AND FURTHER REPORTS FROM AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES, JAPANESE STILL FEEL DESIRABLE TO FLY SOME OF CREW BACK TO JAPAN, RECOMMEND WE PROVIDE SPECIAL AIRCRAFT.

"THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR THAT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME. AT BEST IT COULD VERY ADVERSELY AFFECT US-JAPANESE RELATIONS IN TERMS OF JAPANESE OPINION. I THEREFORE FEEL STRONGLY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO COOPERATE TO THE HILT WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS TRYING TO MINIMIZE HOSTILE REACTION BY ACCEDING TO ITS WISHES."

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PARA STATE IS REPLYING TO TOKYO AND CANBERRA AS FOLLOWS:

"AS RECOMMENDED, AEC IS PREPARED TO SEND MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND DECONTAMINATION EXPERTS FROM ENIWETOK TO INVESTIGATE THE STATUS OF THE CREW MEMBERS AND THE TAKUYO MARU. THE ENIWETOK TEAM COULD PROBABLY ARRIVE WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER NOTIFIED BY US HQ. EMBASSY TOKYO REQUESTED TO OBTAIN URGENTLY CONCURRENCE OF THE MSB OR FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAVE US MEDICAL PERSONNEL ATTEND THE JAP CREWMEN AND THE US TECHNICIANS TO TAKE DECONTAMINATION MEASURES ON SHIP IF NEEDED. / CANBERRA SOONEST RESULTS OF SUCH APPROACH. ALSO STATE DATE FALLOUT TAKUYO MARU COMMENCED. IN EVENT CONCURRENCE FORTHCOMING EMBASSY CANBERRA REQUESTED TO OBTAIN LANDING PERMISSION OF PLANE AND OF US PERSONNEL AT RABUL."

PARA HAVE REQUESTED AFOAT TO TELETYPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE RELATIVE TO SUITABILITY OF RABUL FOR C-54 LANDING. REQUEST CINCPAC PROVIDE CJTF-7 INFORMATION IT MAY HAVE IN THIS REGARD.

SO (Handwritten ADS): M&R for destruction *Detroyed 7/1/58 Lingen*
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